



St Paul's C/E Infant School  
Tongham  
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### Headteacher's Newsletter – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Update – but I am aware that there is a government meeting going on so this may change.**

As you know, our response to this international crisis up to this point has been to follow the Public Health and government guidelines and this will continue to be the case.

To date this has meant continuing with our cleaning regime, cleaning all surfaces with anti-bacterial cleaner and enforcing the hand washing regime so that children, staff and visitors are washing their hands:

- on arrival at school
- after using the toilet
- after breaks and sporting activities
- before eating any food, including snacks
- before leaving school

We also have a limited amount of alcohol based hand sanitiser and wipes to use.

We have been reminding children of the following guidance and have posters displayed around the school.



At the moment there is guidance for anyone returning to the UK from specified countries (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>)

The government guidance is clear that self isolation only applies to the person returning and/or showing symptoms. Children and staff should continue to attend school. This includes family members, for example children and even brothers and sisters attending the same or a different school (unless specifically advised not to by public health officials). Therefore in following this guidance, at this point, I am unable to authorise any chosen absence and unable to ask teachers to provide work for children where parents choose to keep children away from school.

At this time we do not have any staff or children with either confirmed or suspected Covid-19. We do have family members of 2 of the children attending school who have symptoms and are being tested.

If any child displays symptoms during the school day, we will phone and ask parents to arrange for him/her to be collected and then seek guidance via 111. Any staff member would be sent home and asked to seek guidance via 111.

If we did have a confirmed case Public Health England would contact me and advise on further actions. At this stage (12<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm) the current advice is that school closure would be unlikely.

If you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.